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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

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April 15, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

We are writing regarding the potential impact of the recent budget agreement on the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP) within the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) budget of the Department of Energy.

Section 1435 of the Continuing Resolution provides that "Notwithstanding section 1101, the (funding) level for "Department of Energy, Energy Programs, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy shall be \$1,835, 000,000." This funding level would be a reduction of roughly 20% compared to FY10 levels. We are concerned that without Congressional guidance on how this cut is to be distributed, the WAP and SEP programs could receive disproportionate cuts.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled by improving the energy efficiency of their home and lowering their energy bills. These energy bill savings can then be used to purchase other essentials. A study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that WAP returned \$2.72 in benefits for every dollar invested.

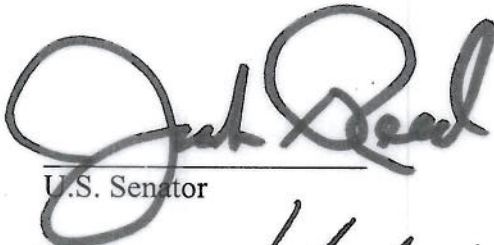
Similarly, the State Energy Program allows states to support a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects including improvements to schools and hospitals, the establishment of partnerships with utilities and retailers to promote the sale of high-efficiency appliances, and facilitates the development of states' renewable energy resources. A 2005 Oak Ridge National Laboratory Study found that for every federal dollar invested in SEP over \$7 in energy savings is provided and almost \$11 in non-federal funds is leveraged.

To assure that these programs will continue to carry out their important roles in reducing energy demand, promoting renewable energy, and making our economy more secure and competitive, we urge you to maintain funding for these important programs at FY10

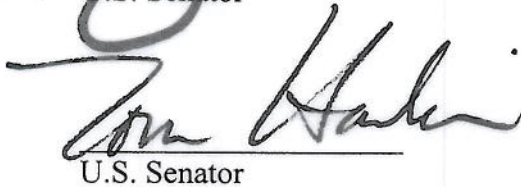
levels, but in no event should these programs be cut beyond the proportional amount as the Continuing Resolution reduces the overall EERE budget. More specifically, FY10 levels should be your target for WAP and SEP, but in no event should these programs receive less than \$168 million for the WAP base program and \$40 million for the SEP formula program.

Thank you for your past support for these programs. We look forward to your sympathetic consideration of this request that would assure the continuation of these two important programs.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator



U.S. Senator



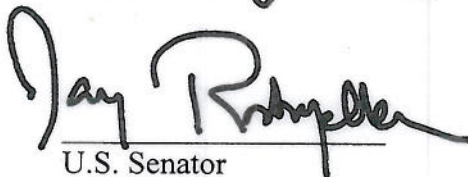
U.S. Senator



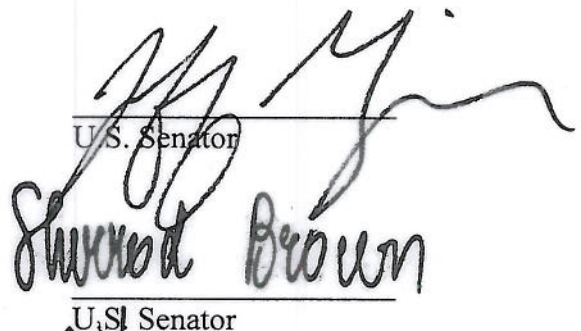
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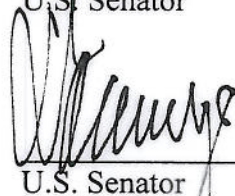
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U.S. Senator



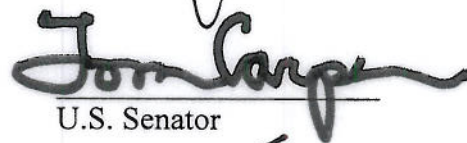
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